

# The Washington Times

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Mr. Richard Kerr  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

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Dear Mr. Kerr:

I enjoyed chatting with you prior to your testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month.

I wanted to follow up on something you said to me about my reporting. You said that the articles I've written have caused "damage" to U.S. intelligence sources. ?

While I'm not aware of any damage that I've caused, I'm concerned about the allegation and would like to discuss it with you further. Perhaps you would be willing to meet with me and The Washington Times national editor, Francis B. Coombs, to talk about your concerns.

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I would like to point out that in most cases the CIA's public affairs office or the State Department knows in advance of publication what my stories will say. This is the result of the normal reporting process and my seeking comment. Not once has the CIA public affairs office asked me or The Washington Times to withhold information or to alter information in ways that would protect intelligence sources.

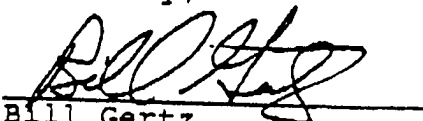
While The Times reserves the right to publish information that comes our way, all of us are concerned about disclosing information that would be harmful to national security.

If you would like to discuss this further, please call me at 202-636-3274.

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If you agree to discuss this subject off-the-record, perhaps I could also spend some time, say 30 minutes, for an on-the-record interview. I would like to talk to you about general intelligence topics, including the upcoming Gates nomination, the BCCI affair, and ongoing CIA efforts to support U.S. policymakers.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Gertz

National Security Affairs Reporter

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